

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02399 202151 Z

61

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 OEP-01 EB-11 COME-00

OMB-01 FPC-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 RSR-01 INRE-00 /107 W

----- 104153

P 202121 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9131

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 2399

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: REACTION TO OEP STATEMENT

REF: CARACAS 2238

1. PUBLICITY ON STATEMENT OF OEP ACTING HEAD DARRELL TRENT CONCERNING US INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF ORINOCO PETROLEUM BELT SEEMS TO HAVE DIED OUT HERE. SPEED WITH WHICH PUBLIC AND PRESS LOST INTEREST IN STORY SUGGESTS THAT FEARS EXPRESSED BY OIL COMPANY SPOKESMEN AS TO POSSIBLE LASTING ADVERSE IMPACT HERE WERE NOT REALIZED. STORY SEEMS TO HAVE DROPPED INTO CONTEXT OF ONE MORE US STATEMENT OF POSSIBLE INTEREST IN ORINOCO BELT.

2. IF OIL COMPANIES SEEM OVERLY SENSITIVE TO STORIES OF THIS KIND IN VENEZUELAN PRESS, IT IS BECAUSE ANYTHING THAT TENDS TO STRENGTHEN UNREALISTIC BELIEF OF SOME VENEZUELAN THAT US IS DESPERATE FOR VENEZUELAN OIL MAKES THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT HERE MORE DIFFICULT, AND BECAUSE COMPANIES ARE CONSTANTLY UNDER VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT' S DAMOCLEAN SWORD, E. G. , INCREASE IN TRV' S MARCH 14. MCCLINTOCK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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